

Yoram Rubin notes made at the Hydrology Section Award Ceremony, December 2005, San Francisco

Dear Hydrology Section president Rafael Bras and President-elect George Hornberger, members of the hydrology section executive committee, colleagues, friends and fellow hydrologists,

Thank you all for being here today, and thank you, Andrea, for the nice words.

A few weeks ago, after Rafael called to tell me I would be given this award, I began thinking what it represents. And although it means a great deal to me personally, I realized that it is most significant as a recognition of a scientific journey.

This is a journey that so far, over 20 years, has taken me to new, often unexpected, and always exciting, destinations. It is a journey that I could not have made without excellent traveling companions and guides, colleagues, and friends, that teamed up with me, making it possible to accomplish more. This award is for them as much as it is for me.

I would like to mention here quite a few of those who made this journey possible, and to whom I owe my deepest gratitude. This list is long, and still I could not make it as complete as it needs to be, given the time.

First, Gedeon Dagan, my phd thesis advisor and a long time collaborator and friend after that, who opened for me the doors into stochastic hydrogeology, and convinced me how fortunate we are to work in science and even getting paid a salary for that.

Peter Kitanidis and Al Woodbury, whose pioneering research guided me through the complexities of inverse modeling and geostatistics.

Alberto Bellin, whose keen physical intuition and unrelenting scientific pursuit, and our very long friendship, allowed me to explore transport in heterogeneous media to ever newer depths.

Andrea Rinaldo, a true renaissance man, equally comfortable with river networks, as he is with neural networks, as he is with literature, history and poetry.

Jerry Harris and Gary Mavko, and later on, and to this day, Susan Hubbard, joined my forays into hydrogeophysics possible. Who could have imagined that our subsurface explorations of the bacterial transport experimental site in Oyster Virginia will bring us to working in the Napa Valley vineyards, like we do today.

Georg Teutsch, a true science leader and a far-reaching visionary, and Peter Indelman, a brilliant scientist in the great Russian science tradition, both are a source of inspiration for me.

Robert Ritzi, a gifted sedimentologist and hydrogeologist, who showed me that there is much more to variograms than meets the eye.

Douglas James...Doug James, underwrote a large chunk of this journey, although he never made it easy. My exchanges with him, especially, and all too often, when he wrote to me the bad news about his funding decisions, remind me of a quote attributed to Newt Gingrich, who once said that while it is true that he was not admitted to Princeton, he nevertheless got such a nice letter declining his application from them that he immediately felt like a Princeton alumnus.

Finally, my students, a few of which are here today, Jinsong Chen, Zhangshuan Hou, Xingyuan Chen, You should know that my meetings with you are the highlights of my days.

There are many others who were and still are close to my heart, and I apologize for not mentioning all of you.

As scientists working in our individual specialties and subspecialties, it can be easy, at times, to lose sight of the breadth of possibilities that hydrology represents overall. Hence, I was grateful to be reminded, during the recent application process for the CUAHSI national synthesis Center, of the myriad lines of inquiry that comprise hydrology.

Stepping back and looking at the breadth and depth of hydrology as a discipline, the other disciplines with which it interacts, and the real and lasting differences it can make in improving the quality of life and environmental stewardship from any number of angles around the globe -- all gave me a deepened appreciation for the importance of this work and the esteem in which I hold all of my colleagues who are so dedicated to hydrologic research.

Thank you all for your kind attention.